

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

v.

12 WAYNE N. MORRIS,

13 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR99-0174-JCC

ORDER

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15 This matter comes before the Court on the Government's motion to seal an exhibit
16 attached to its response to Defendant's motion for compassionate release (Dkt. No. 238). The
17 Court starts from the position that "[t]here is a strong presumption of public access to [its] files."
18 W.D. Wash. Local Civ. R. 5(g)(3); *see Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597
19 (1978). To overcome that presumption, the Government must show that there are "compelling
20 reasons" to seal Exhibit A. *See Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1101
21 (9th Cir. 2016) (holding that the "compelling reasons" standard applies to any motion that "is
22 more than tangentially related to the merits of a case"). The Court finds compelling reasons to
23 seal Exhibit A, which contains sensitive and confidential information that, if made public, could
24 cause irreparable harm to Defendant Wayne N. Morris. Accordingly, the Court GRANTS the
25 Government's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 238) and DIRECTS the Clerk to maintain Docket
26 Number 239 under seal until further order of the Court.

1 DATED this 26th day of August 2020.
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John C. Coughenour

5 John C. Coughenour
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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